

PRINCETON  
JOURNEYS

# BAJA CALIFORNIA: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE









DEAR PRINCETONIAN,

The Baja California peninsula in northwestern Mexico is a remarkable destination. You'll have the opportunity to revel in a pristine wilderness few people imagine exists in our North American backyard. In winter, California gray whales give birth and raise their calves in the nursery lagoons; board local pangas and set out for extraordinary up-close encounters with these gentle giants and their playful calves.

Explore the Gulf of California, where there are countless opportunities to experience a living sea. Observe dolphins by the score and encounter a variety of whales, including breaching humpbacks and perhaps even rare blue whales. Snorkel lively coral reefs, hike into cacti forests of surreal beauty, kayak along remote coastlines – and generally have the place to yourselves.

Roam freely aboard *National Geographic Venture*, a nimble expedition ship ruled by wind, waves, and weather, and have the kind of experiences that only nature can provide. See, learn, and do more with a team of expert naturalists, including an undersea specialist, who know this area well. For photographers, this paradise offers extraordinary light to capture it all with the help of a certified photo instructor.

This is a wonderful way to experience the natural splendor of Baja California.

**Contact the Princeton Journeys team at 609-258-8686 or [journeys@princeton.edu](mailto:journeys@princeton.edu) to reserve your place today.**

Please note: Princeton travelers will be joined by those from Washington and Lee University and Lindblad Expeditions.

Sincerely,



Bridget St. Clair  
Director, Alumni Education and Travel  
Princeton University

#### SPECIAL OFFER

Celebrating a milestone on board? You and your group of eight or more will enjoy 5% savings on booking, receive a \$150 shipboard credit, and much more. See page 12 for details.

*Cover photo: California gray whale surfaces close to panga. © Ralph Lee Hopkins*

*Opposite: A guest exploring the sandstone cliffs by kayak in the Gulf of California. © Ralph Lee Hopkins*





# HAVE UP-CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH GRAY WHALES

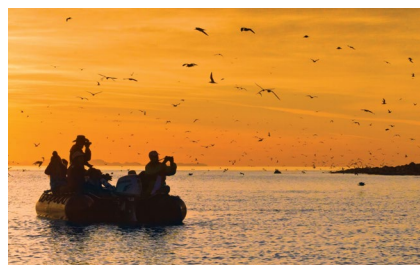


You can whale watch in a number of places in the world, but only in Baja California can you have a personal encounter—and you will have plenty of chances to get up close to these gentle giants. Gray whales migrate annually from their feeding grounds in Alaska to the nursery lagoons on the Baja California peninsula to give birth and nurture their young. Spend time among the mothers and their calves, observing them at

water level aboard pangas guided by local experts. They are often incredibly social and have been known to push their newborn calves up to the pangas. Expert spotters and knowledgeable naturalists join you to enhance your experiences among these marvelous “friendlies.”

## EXPLORE PRISTINE ISLES AND A LIVING SEA

On the other side of the Baja California peninsula, in the Gulf of California, discover the uninhabited desert islands that dot the clear blue sea. Search for a variety of whale species, scores of leaping dolphins, and diving seabirds. Hike a forest of giant cacti, kayak or paddleboard in protected coves, snorkel with sea lions (conditions permitting), and join a naturalist aboard a Zodiac to observe the diverse birdlife along the shores. When you see Baja California's islands with their desert landscape, rugged cliffs, and white sand beaches reflected in an azure sea, you'll understand immediately why they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.



*Opposite page (clockwise from top): California sea lion barking, Los Islotes; gray whale mother and calf, Magdalena Bay; the sea often erupts with scores of leaping dolphins; breaching humpback whale; frigatebird.*





# THE PERFECT WAY TO DISCOVER BAJA CALIFORNIA



With generous decks that take full advantage of the sun and ocean breezes, and create front-row seats to the remarkable spectacle of marine life in Baja California, the *National Geographic Venture* is uniquely designed to make the most of being in this remote, soul-satisfying geography. The ship is more than comfortable, with spacious cabins,

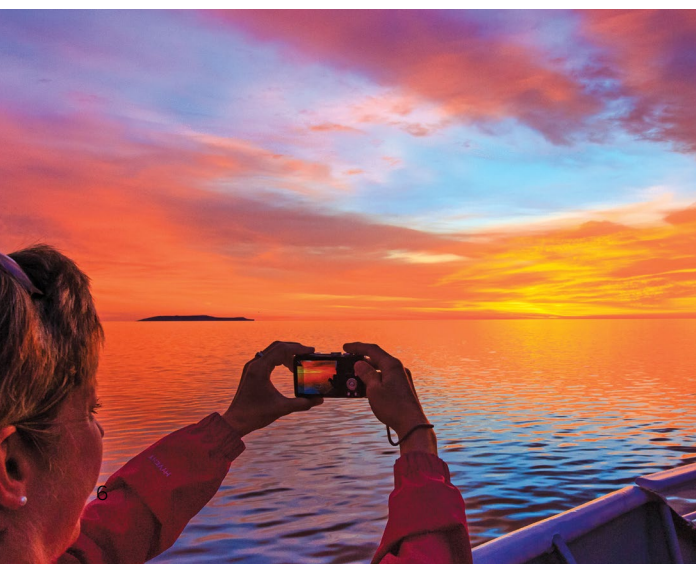
(some with step-out balconies) generous windows, and top amenities.

Inviting public spaces foster an atmosphere of camaraderie—the lounge, which accommodates the entire expedition community, is where evening Recaps take place, and the casual dining room provides unassigned seating for easy mingling.

## ONBOARD TOOLS FOR DEEPER EXPLORATION

Because there is much to discover here—cactus forests, desert islands, beautifully indented shores, a calm sea with vivid life beneath the surface, and more—*National Geographic Venture* is equipped so you can explore. A fleet of Zodiacs lets you experience up-close encounters with whales, dolphins, and sea lions, and land on otherwise inaccessible, uninhabited islands. Board one of the single or double kayaks for water-level views of the stunning scenery. Get up and out on a stand-up paddleboard for a personal adventure. Snorkeling gear for all aboard enables you to explore the thriving undersea. There's even a hydrophone for whale listening and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which can operate up to 1,000 feet below the surface.

*Opposite page (clockwise from top): National Geographic Venture is equipped to explore in comfort; kayaking in the calm water of the Gulf of California; snorkelers exploring the vibrant undersea, Cabo Pulmo National Park; enjoy yoga on deck; beach barbecue and bonfire under the stars; go paddleboarding for a personal perspective.*





# TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM



Discover Baja California with a veteran expedition leader and a team of naturalists well versed in the region's flora and fauna. An undersea specialist/videographer shoots video for you to enjoy in the comfort of the ship's lounge, maximizing your understanding of Baja California's incredible marine environment. A certified photo instructor

assists you in capturing moments at the heart of your experience. Plus, a wellness specialist helps enhance the relaxing and revitalizing benefits of life in this magical region.

## IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, SHOOT GREAT PHOTOS

Make the most of the unrivaled photo ops of Baja California's wild islands, whales, dolphins, and seabirds with the Expedition Photography program. The onboard certified photo instructor offers assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. Their expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—no matter your current ability or interest level—and ensure you return home with incredible photos.



### EXCLUSIVE ONBOARD GEAR LOCKER

Dive into the onboard OM System Photo Gear Locker to field test new lenses, camera bodies, and more—free. Plus, ask about pre-voyage discounts and benefits.

*Opposite page (clockwise from top): Hiking amidst giant cacti; guests spot mobula rays during Zodiac outing; photo instructor shares tips in the field; undersea specialist captures a sea lion on video; smartphone user photographs sunset in the Gulf of California.*



# BAJA CALIFORNIA: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE*



Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. In Magdalena Bay, venture out in small boats among these magnificent creatures. In the Gulf of California, search for a variety of whales, plus dolphins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants, and magnificent frigatebirds. You'll also snorkel pristine coral reefs, join naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti and sculpted sand dunes, and see a variety of desert flora and fauna.

## **DAY 1:** LORETO, MEXICO/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK

Arrive in Loreto by early afternoon for transfer to San Carlos. Embark *National Geographic Venture* in the evening. Savor the sunset as we set sail. (D)

## **DAY 2:** BAHÍA ALMEJAS/REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA

Awake anchored in Bahía Almejas, the southernmost part of Magdalena Bay. We'll stop at a large frigatebird colony enroute to the spectacular whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. Whales in this part of the bay tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence, so settle in for some great experiences. During lunch, the ship will reposition to Isla Magdalena where we'll head to shore to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes on



a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Bird-watching here can be excellent, with abundant seabirds in action and shorebirds patrolling the beaches as they fatten up for long journeys to Arctic breeding grounds. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 3: BOCA DE SOLEDAD**

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed, give birth and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. We'll transfer by motorcoach to López Mateos and spend the full day observing and, with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local fishermen, we'll venture out in pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltering region. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to the ship in late afternoon. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 4: MAGDALENA BAY AND CRUISING**

Ease into the day with morning stretches hosted by our onboard wellness specialist on the sun deck. After breakfast, if conditions permit, we explore the bay's vast mangrove system via kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and Zodiac, and learn how these ecosystems support their surroundings. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 5: GORDA BANKS AND CABO PULMO**

Witness a majestic sunrise over the iconic Friars Rocks at Land's End. We'll spend the rest of the morning searching the seas of Gorda Banks seamount, a renowned gathering place for whales (especially humpbacks) dolphins, and other sea life. Following lunch, we'll set out to snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the most successful national marine parks in the world, and chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 6: LOS ISLOTES AND LA PAZ\***

Awake this morning off rocky Los Islotes, where we'll don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which we provide) and swim with curious sea lions (conditions permitting). Then we'll reposition to the colorful city of La Paz to garner insight into the culture of Mexico, soak in the vibrant street art, and stroll the lively malecon on a guided walking tour. Dinner will be an unforgettable cultural experience, complete with local cuisine, dancing, and folklore. (B,L,D) *\*Please note our stop in Los Islotes is highly dependent on sailing conditions.*

#### **DAY 7: EXPLORING THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA**

Our plan is flexible as we explore some of the sea's many uninhabited islands. We may go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons you to kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Or, hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views over Isla Danzante with your naturalist. You'll get a chance to see the great diversity offered in the Gulf of California and, with some luck, spot whales, dolphins, and other marine life. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK**

Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the city center. Enjoy free time to explore the quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)







# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

**CAPACITY:** 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests.  
**REGISTRY:** United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 238 feet.

Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., *National Geographic Venture* sets a new standard in exploration and comfort.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. The open Bridge provides guests an opportunity to meet the captain and officers to learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Menu emphasizes local fare. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, and accented with regional flair.

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, and multiple electrical and USB outlets. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essentials Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles, and a *National Geographic Atlas* are available in each cabin.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, paddleboards, snorkeling gear for all guests, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest Wi-Fi access, elevator, certified photo instructor, undersea specialist, and ship physician.

**WELLNESS:** The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights, and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Lindblad Expeditions takes responsible, sustainable travel to heart. For 50+ years, our expeditions have inspired travelers to protect the ocean, conserve wildlife, bolster local communities, and enable meaningful scientific research. We are 100% carbon neutral and dedicated to green business practices at every level of our operations. When you travel with us, you'll eat sustainable meals, experience our commitment to single-use plastic-free travel, and be aboard the industry's first self-disinfecting expedition ships, prioritizing your health and safety. Feel good about exploring with us and preserve the planet for future generations.

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5 SUITE	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	SAMPLE AIRFARES
Baja California: Among the Great Whales	\$6,930	\$8,020	\$8,680	\$9,580	\$10,630	\$10,540	\$12,150	15% of the cabin fare, per person	Round-trip LAX/Loreto: Economy from \$365; Business from \$1,075.

**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

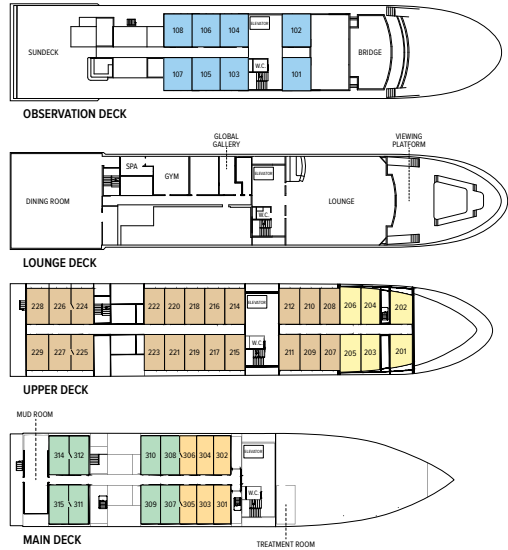
**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.

**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108. Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**NOTE:** Solo Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:** Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227



*Clockwise from top left: The casual dining room with its expansive windows; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to a queen) and a private step-out balcony; the sun deck is a perfect place to relax and observe the scenery; Category 5 cabin is the most spacious aboard.*



# INCLUSIVE PRICING

## ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and beverages (except certain super-premium brands of alcohol)
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea and soda, and complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres and snacks during evening Recap
- ✓ Regionally-specific, professionally-curated library
- ✓ Mac computers for downloading your photos
- ✓ Fitness center
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff
- ✓ Access to the Bridge to learn about navigation

## ASHORE

- ✓ Meals as indicated
- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to and from designated flights
- ✓ The expertise of our expedition staff and local guides

## ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac and kayak explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling and paddleboarding
- ✓ Lectures and presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Photo instruction from a skilled photographer
- ✓ Morning stretch class with our wellness specialist

# SPECIAL OFFERS

**MILESTONE CELEBRATION PACKAGE:** Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, etc., with your group of eight or more, and receive 5% off, a \$150 shipboard credit for the spa or champagne, a complimentary group photo, and more. Milestone celebration must be communicated at time of booking. Milestone amenity package is one per group, intended for the guest celebrating the Milestone event. Group discount is applicable to cruise portion only, and does not apply towards additional services such as hotels, extensions, airfare, etc. Group cancellation terms also apply. Not combinable with certain offers.

**BRING THE KIDS:** Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off the double occupancy price for travelers under 18.

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**COSTS INCLUDE:** Accommodations aboard ship; all meals and beverages aboard ship (except certain super-premium brands of alcohol); shore excursions, sightseeing, special access permits, and entrance fees; transfers to/from airport if traveling on designated flights; use of kayaks, paddleboards, and snorkeling gear; taxes, service charges, and gratuities (except to ship's crew); services of Lindblad Expeditions' natural history staff and ship physician. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfare; meals not indicated; passport and visa fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as super-premium brands of alcohol, Wi-Fi, and laundry; gratuities to ship's crew at your discretion.

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is an additional cost. Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from \$365; Business from \$1,075. Sample airfares are subject to change. Lindblad will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service charge.

**RESERVATIONS:** To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare, per person is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Due no later than 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** As a service to its travelers, Princeton Journeys automatically provides its travelers coverage under a group medical and evacuation insurance policy. It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

**ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS:** Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

**SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY:** Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

**RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

**NOTE:** Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date and are subject to change. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

CANCELLATION POLICY	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
120 or more days	No penalty: Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**
119-90 days	50% of trip cost***
89-0 days	100% of trip cost***
**Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking. ***Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, airfare, and other additional services. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.	

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Please send reservation to:  
Princeton Journeys  
P.O. Box 5256  
Princeton, NJ 08543  
Phone: (609) 258-8686  
Email: [journeys@princeton.edu](mailto:journeys@princeton.edu)

## RESERVATION FORM:

### BAJA CALIFORNIA: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE • JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on passport)

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Princeton Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on passport)

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Princeton Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Twin share with a friend

☐ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Payment Information:** 15% of the cabin fare, per person

☐ If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**

Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information.

Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that neither the University nor Princeton Journeys conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for completing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Neither the University nor Princeton Journeys is responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from or relating to travel. **Princeton Journeys' complete terms, which you are required to agree to before enrolling in a tour, can be found at: [alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions](http://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions).**




## AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

### EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- » Get up close to gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the breeding grounds of Magdalena Bay or Boca de Soledad.
- » Snorkel pristine coral reefs in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park.
- » Kayak and paddleboard in calm, blue waters for personal discoveries.
- » Explore deserted isles amid sand dunes and cacti forests.
- » Learn about marine and desert life from expert naturalists and an undersea specialist.

#### 100% CARBON NEUTRAL AND COMMITTED TO BEING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE

We have chosen Lindblad Expeditions because they care deeply about the planet, and see travel as a powerful force for good.

 Printed on 10% recycled content paper with soy-based inks. We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.



## PRINCETON JOURNEYS

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